Weakley County Legislative Body
Regular County Commission Meeting
Weakley County Courthouse, Dresden, TN
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body was called to order by the Chairman Dennis Doster at 5:00 P.M. at the Weakley County Courthouse.

Chairman Dennis Doster stated that on January 29, 2026; while eating breakfast, he received a phone call from Commissioner Vincent with heartbreaking news that Commissioner Larry Kelly had passed away. He was an incredibly good man. Commissioner Larry Kelly was a man of faith, family, dedication, and service. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that we all should remember Commissioner Larry Kelly's family as we pray. Commissioner Larry Taylor stated that Commissioner Kelly was a close friend and considered him more like a brother. He was always available for anything needed and was just a great, great friend.

The invocation was given by Brian Gallimore.

All members present gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

County Clerk Kim Hughey called the roll. Answering present were Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook. Commissioner Wade Cook was absent.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the November 17, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bell made a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Financial Reports. A motion was made by Commissioner Usery and a second was placed by Commissioner Donaldson. A voice vote was taken, and the Financial Reports were approved with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Ag Extension Report. Commissioner Dunlap made a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Ag Extension Report was accepted with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Veteran's Service Report. A motion was made by Commissioner Hawks and a second was placed by Commissioner Washburn. A voice vote was taken, and the Veteran's Service Report was approved with none opposed.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MAYOR

Chairman Dennis Doster stated that the Statements of Interest were due January 31, 2026. The TCSA County Government Day is February 23rd-24th. The 2025-2026 budget book was handed out to everyone.

Weakley County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that a proclamation will be presented soon for the Westview Charger Football Team winning the State Championship and sophomore Graham Simpson for being awarded Mr. Football. The county was awarded a $500,000 Historic Development Grant from the Tennessee Economic and Community Development Department. The money will be used for necessities at the Weakley County Courthouse, which would have otherwise been a burden to the taxpayers. State Representative Tandy Darby, Senator John Stevens, Melinda Parham, the Northwest TN Development District, and all Department Heads were instrumental in the grant application and approval process. Thanks to the Weakley County Commission for approving the budget to match the grant. Weakley County was one of the few counties to receive the $500,000 grant.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson reminded everyone that the last day to pay your property taxes at the courthouse is February 27th. They can be dropped in the drop-box or postmarked by February 28th. There will not be an extension for inclement weather. The Weakley County Trustee Marci Floyd and her employees do a lot in their office, handling millions of dollars, with great responsibility, and would like to highlight them for all their hard work. Through our Debt Service we made an excess of $50,000 beyond what we normally would have made this past budget year. When Marci Floyd took office in 2008 our county had 4 investment accounts and they have been able to expand that into 43 different investments. They also have a 100% collection rate on personal property and 99.6% average on overall property tax collection.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that there was not much more that could be said about Commissioner Larry Kelly, but that he served not only our county but our country via the military. He analyzed everything with a keen eye and with the taxpayers in mind. We do not know what tomorrow holds, only our God above does.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS

Appointment of Circuit Court Clerk

Chairman Dennis Doster opened the floor for nominations for the appointment of the Circuit Court Clerk. Toya Bell and Travis Davis have submitted applications and meet all the qualifications for the position. Commissioner Westbrook nominated Toya Bell. She has been the Dresden City Court Clerk for almost two decades, she is a graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and very capable for the position. There were no other nominations. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Toya Bell as the Weakley County Circuit Court Clerk was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of County Attorney

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Weakley County Attorney. The Financial Management Committee nominated Allison Whitledge for reappointment. Commissioner Bell made a motion and Commissioner Eddings placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Allison Whitledge as the Weakley County Attorney for a one-year term ending January 31, 2027, was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of One (1) Member to the Emergency Communications Board

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve one member to the Emergency Communications Board. Kory Green was recommended for the appointment. Commissioner Eddings made a motion and Commissioner Washburn placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Kory Green to the Emergency Communications Board for an unexpired term ending August 31, 2027, was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of One (1) Member to the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Board

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve one member to the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Board. Joey Mehlhorn was recommended for the appointment. Commissioner Hopper made a motion and Commissioner Hazlewood placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Joey Mehlhorn to the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport Board for an unexpired term ending August 31, 2026, was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of District 6 Constable

Chairman Dennis Doster opened the floor for nominations for the District 6 Constable. There were no nominations for the District 6 Constable position.

Election of Notaries Public

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Notaries Public. Commissioner Usery made a motion and Commissioner Donaldson placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Notaries Public were approved with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

NON-FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-36: Resolution Authorizing a 2026 County Maintenance Road List

Sponsored by Commissioners Gary Eddings and Billy Hazlewood

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-36. Commissioner Westbrook made a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and Resolution 2026-36 was approved with none opposed.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-28: A Resolution of the Weakley County Board of Commissioners to Allow Weakley County Trustee to Round All Property Taxes (Including Rollback, Public Utility, and Interest)

Sponsored by Commissioners Roger Donaldson and James Westbrook

Passed unanimously through the FWM committee

Resolution No. 2026-29: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

Sponsored by Commissioners James Washburn and David Bell

Passed unanimously through the Public Safety and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-30: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General-Purpose School Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

Sponsored by Commissioners Joey Mehlhorn and David Bell

Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-31: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General-Purpose School Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Joey Mehlhorn and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-32: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General-Purpose School Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Joey Mehlhorn and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-33: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General-Purpose School Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Joey Mehlhorn and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-34: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Joey Mehlhorn and Dennis Doster
Passed unanimously through the HEED and FWM committees.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to combine Resolution 2026-28, 2026-29, 2026-30, 2026-31, 2026-32, 2026-33, and 2026-34. Commissioner Hazlewood made a motion and Commissioner Mehlhorn placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and combining Resolution No. 2026-28, 2026-29, 2026-30, 2026-31, 2026-32, 2026-33, and 2026-34 were approved with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-28, 2026-29, 2026-30, 2026-31, 2026-32, 2026-33, and 2026-34. Commissioner Pope made a motion and Commissioner Eddings placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-28, 2026-29, 2026-30, 2026-31, 2026-32, 2026-33, and 2026-34 passed with 16 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioner Wade Cook was absent.

Resolution No. 2026-35: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Gary Eddings and Dennis Doster
Passed unanimously through FWM committee

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No.2026-35. Commissioner Hopper made a motion and Commissioner Pope placed a second. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that this resolution is a request to increase Melinda Parham's salary to $45,000. The reason for the request is because of Melinda's extensive background and work that she has already done. She is very qualified, even overqualified, for her role. She has taken the initiative to educate herself in the realm of grant applications, grant facilitation, and grant acquisition. She is currently taking classes and has already completed courses to make sure she is educated on that matter. Through her hard work, our county was able to acquire a $500,000 grant for the courthouse. She has also acquired other grants for personnel, including filling her own position while she was on maternity leave, so there was no additional cost to the taxpayers. Commissioner Vincent asked if this only went through one committee. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that it went through Financial Management and then the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee.

Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-35 passed with 16 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioner Wade Cook was absent.

Resolution No. 2026-37: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Gary Eddings and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the FWM committee

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No.2026-37. Commissioner Freeman made a motion and Commissioner Pope placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that this resolution is to hire another county employee that would be at the Soil Conservation District. If approved, there will be a total of three employees. They oversee projects inside of the county. Each employee out there has the potential of acquiring $1 million or more from grants. The grant money received is spent locally, inside of our county.

Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-37 passed with 16 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioner Wade Cook was absent.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Vincent stated that the appointment of the new Emergency Communications Board Member replaced Mr. John Salmon who just recently passed away.

Chairman Dennis Doster announced that the next Regular Meeting would be Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk